

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

IO-14 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 EB-11 DRC-01 /134 W

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O R 111855Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5215

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI

SUBJ: COUNCIL OF IRELAND

REF: DAWKINS-SORENSEN TELECON, DUBLIN 1626

1. ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND SPELLED OUT IN PARA 6 - 8 OF SUNNINGDALE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH DEPT HOLDS.

2. AS INDICATED IN DUBLIN 1626, DECISION TO FORM COUNCIL IS REGARDED BY DUBLIN AS MOST IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENT OF TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE. IN COMMENTING ON COUNCIL, PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE STATED, "WE BELIEVE THE FORMATION OF THE COUNCIL WILL PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF CONSENSUS POLITICS THROUGHOUT IRELAND AND THE EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE." HE ADDED THAT THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE COUNCIL WAS SET UP AND FOR WHICH IT MUST SERVE "IS TO BUILD UP STEADILY A SPIRIT OF GREATER CONFIDENCE AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS AND HISTORICAL TRADITIONS IN IRELAND/....WE PRAY GOD THAT THE COUNCIL MAY BE AN INSTRUMENT THROUGH WHICH PEACE AND RECONCILIATION MAY COME TO ALL THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND." FONMIN FITZGERALD SAID HE BELIEVED

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COUNCIL WOULD BE "STEPPING STONE TO UNITY."

3. IRISH GOVERNMENT CLEARLY HOPES THAT COUNCIL A) WILL DEFUSE EXTREME REPUBLICAN DEMANDS FOR UNIFICATION; B) WILL INSTITUTIONALIZE SOUTHERN INTEREST IN AFFAIRS OF CATHOLIC MINORITY IN NORTH, C) WILL UNDERTAKE INCREASINGLY SUBSTANTIVE TASKS INVOLVING BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH, AND D) WILL EVENTUALLY (OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL AND PROBABLY MANY YEARS) TAKE ON INCREASINGLY FEDERAL ASPECTS. WHETHER IN LONG RUN COUNCIL WILL EVOLVE AS GOI HOPES, FOR IMMEDIATE PRESENT MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF COUNCIL IS THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN FINELY BALANCED PACKAGE WITHOUT WHICH EXECUTIVE IN NORTH COULD NEVER GET OFF THE GROUND AND TWO COMMUNITIES BE BROUGHT INTO A WORKING RELATIONSHIP. SORENSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NATIONALISM, HUMAN RIGHTS, LAW, EXTREMISTS, NATIONALISTS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973DUBLIN01636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731232/aaaaaxsb.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: DAWKINS-SORENSEN TELECON, DUBLIN 162, 6
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <01-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COUNCIL OF IRELAND
TAGS: PINT, PBOR, EI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005